[English]

Trade in Human Organs

3887. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illicit trade in human kidneys with Arab countries;

(b) whether the Government have made a thorough inquiry into the modus operandi practised by the traders;

(c) if so, the number of traders found involved in this trade; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this illicit trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Reports about trade in human organs and exploitation of poor persons have appeared from time to time in various press reports. These have been highlighted at different fora.

(b) The attention of the State Governments concerned is drawn to the reports received and they are asked to institute inquiry and take stringent action under law. The powers for institution and enforcement are with the State Governments.

(c) Specific details of the cases and their present stage of investigation will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

(d) In order to regulate the removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and to prevent commercial dealings in human organs, the Government has enacted the Transplantations of Human Organs Act, 1994 which came into force w.e.f. 4.2.1996 in the State of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra and all Union Territories. The Act has so far been adopted in ten States and Andhra Pradesh has its own Human Organs Act in this regard. The Central Government has been repeatedly requesting the remaining State Governments for early adoption of this Act.

Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

3888. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme has been started in the schools of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the Government of J & K is providing hot cooked meals of calorific value equivalent to 100 gms. of rice per school day to students of primary classes (I-V). The coverage of the programme is as under:

Year	No. of blocks	Students covered	Foodgrains (Rice) allocated
1995-96	84	4.12 lakh	7,521 MTs.
1996-97	121	6.20 lakh	14,060 MTs.

(c) Does not arise.

Effect of Mosquito Mats

3889. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research or study had been undertaken by Indian Council of Medical Research on the effect of mosquito mats on the health of the people;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that people are suffering from the respiratory problems because of the constant use of these mats; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to protect the people from the harmful effects of these mats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No toxic effects on human beings have been reported with the use of mosquito mats. However, long-term effects of exposure to smoke from coils/mats on human beings, especially infants, warrant further studies.

Facilities on National Highways in Maharashtra

3890. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted proposals for upgradation of State Highways into